

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a honeycomb structure, comprising the steps of: preparing a honeycomb formed article comprising a plurality of partition walls using clay mainly composed of a ceramic material; coating a partition wall strengthening agent to a plurality of partition walls existing in at least one cell opening end portion of the formed article; and thereafter firing the article,

wherein a dispersion liquid containing a partition wall strengthening material mixed in a dispersion medium containing an amphipathic liquid compound having both hydrophilic and hydrophobic groups, the amphipathic liquid component being a main component used as the partition wall strengthening agent; the ceramic material includes cordierite, and the partition wall strengthening material includes a cordierite melting point lowering material comprising at least one type selected from a group consisting of silica, magnesia, talc, and kaolin, or a mixture thereof.

2. (Original) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the amphipathic liquid compound is a nonionic amphipathic liquid compound.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the amphipathic liquid compound is modified silicone oil with a hydrophilic organic group introduced.

4 - 6. Canceled.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb structure according to claim 2, wherein the amphipathic liquid compound is modified silicone oil with a hydrophilic organic group introduced.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb structure according to claim 3, wherein the modified silicone oil is at least one type selected from a group consisting of polyether modified silicone oil and hydrophilic-~~special~~ modified silicone oil, or a mixture thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb structure according to claim 7, wherein the modified silicone oil is at least one type selected from a group consisting of polyether modified silicone oil and hydrophilic-~~special~~ modified silicone oil, or a mixture thereof.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the clay mainly composed of the ceramic material contains a water-soluble organic binder.